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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Guatemala, Haiti, Italy, Japan, Monaco, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of): draft resolution

Participation of volunteers, "White Helmets", in the activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 50/19 of 28 November 1995, 52/171 of 16 December 1997, 54/98 of 8 December 1999, 56/102 of 14 December 2001, 58/118 of 17 December 2003, 61/220 of 20 December 2006 and 64/75 of 7 December 2009,

Reaffirming also its resolutions 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 47/168 of 22 December 1992, 48/57 of 14 December 1993, 49/139 B of 20 December 1994, 50/57 of 12 December 1995 and 51/194 of 17 December 1996 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1995/56 of 28 July 1995 and 1996/33 of 25 July 1996,

Recalling its resolution 66/67 of 5 December 2011 on the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers,

Emphasizing the need for coordination between relief and development activities in the context of humanitarian emergencies, taking into account the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1]

Recognizing the importance of mobilizing the scientific and technical know-how of the international community to assist local communities within a framework of comprehensive disaster risk reduction, bearing in mind the positive impact of technology transfer to developing countries in this field,

[1] See resolution 55/2.

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Recognizing also the responsibility of the United Nations system in the promotion of international cooperation to prevent and mitigate disasters and to provide and coordinate assistance and rehabilitation measures aimed at building resilient communities, and highlighting the leading role of the Secretary-General in this regard,

Recognizing further that the international community, in addressing the growing magnitude and complexity of disasters and chronic challenges, such as hunger, malnutrition and poverty, must rely on the formulation of a well-coordinated global response within the framework of the United Nations and on the promotion of a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development,

Recognizing that the White Helmets initiative has demonstrated the potential of regional partnerships and encouraged the participation of affected or vulnerable populations in the tasks of planning, training, mobilizing and providing an immediate response in disaster situations and complex emergencies,

Emphasizing the need to integrate a gender perspective in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster risk reduction,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations,[2] in particular section VI.B, prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/182 and submitted in response to Assembly resolution 64/75;

2. *Recognizes* the efforts being made by the White Helmets initiative to strengthen national, subregional and regional agreements in Latin America and the Caribbean;

3. *Also recognizes* the work done by the White Helmets in coordination with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to promote the interchange of humanitarian experiences and best practices among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean;

4. *Takes note* of the work done by the White Helmets in strengthening subregional mechanisms for disaster risk reduction, including support to the Forum for Coordination and Cooperation of the Subregional Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Management of the Americas;

5. *Recognizes* the work undertaken with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to strengthen the disaster risk reduction agenda and generate practical tools for the campaign entitled "Making Cities Resilient: My city is getting ready", and encourages all relevant stakeholders to participate actively in the consultation process leading to the post-2015 disaster risk reduction framework;

6. *Notes* the emphasis placed on the development of mechanisms to facilitate the local management of humanitarian emergencies through the organization, participatory involvement and empowerment of affected communities and the training of the members of local volunteer corps;

7. *Commends* the contributions from national and international volunteers for their fundamental role in disaster risk reduction, response and recovery;

8. *Takes note* of the agreement signed in 2012 between the United Nations Volunteers and the White Helmets Commission, which will allow the continuation

[2] A/67/89-E/2012/77.

of the joint work launched in 1995, and invites Member States in a position to do so to consider means of supporting collaboration of the White Helmets with their programme activities and to consider making financial resources available to the Special Voluntary Fund of the United Nations Volunteers;

9. *Also takes note* of the memorandum of understanding signed in 2011 between the White Helmets and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees that established the framework for the deployment of White Helmets volunteers in support of the High Commissioner's emergency operations;

10. *Recognizes* the efforts made by the World Food Programme and the White Helmets to coordinate integration mechanisms that allow for joint action within the framework of food security, on the basis of their general agreements of 1998, including the exchange of information among stakeholders in the field;

11. *Also recognizes* the international humanitarian activities that the White Helmets developed in the period from 2010 to 2012 in coordination with the national authorities of the disaster-affected countries and the agencies of the United Nations system and its partners;

12. *Notes* the work of the White Helmets initiative in assisting the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to promote greater legal preparedness for international disaster assistance in the Americas;

13. *Encourages* operational partners of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Volunteers and the World Health Organization, in providing psychosocial support to the disaster-affected population in emergency and disaster situations, to draw, as appropriate, on the voluntary expertise of the White Helmets, which has been successfully tested, and invites Member States to consider means of integrating the White Helmets initiative into their programme activities;

14. *Also encourages* the White Helmets to continue to enhance coordination with the international humanitarian system and to explore mechanisms for sharing best practices on disaster response and preparedness with other regional organizations in disaster-prone areas, in an effort to improve the coordination of humanitarian assistance provided by the United Nations in emergency situations;

15. *Invites* the Secretary-General, on the basis of the experience acquired, to continue considering the use of the White Helmets initiative as a resource suitable for preventing and mitigating the effects of humanitarian disaster situations;

16. *Also invites* the Secretary-General, on the basis of the work experience acquired by White Helmets in the international field, as recognized in various resolutions of the General Assembly, and in view of the success of coordinated actions carried out with, inter alia, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Volunteers, to suggest measures to enhance the collaboration of the White Helmets initiative with the United Nations system and to report thereon to the Assembly at its seventieth session in a separate section of the annual report on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.